CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of preparing a data packet for transmission over an interconnect link, the method comprising:

      calculating a first CRC value for a payload segment of a data packet;

      calculating a second CRC value for a sequence number of the data packet;

      combining the first CRC value and the second CRC value thereby creating a third CRC value; and

      combining the third CRC value with the payload segment of the data packet thereby creating a transmittable data packet.

2. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising extracting a plurality of inversion bits from the data packet before calculating the first CRC value for the payload segment.

3. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising extracting the sequence number from the data packet before calculating the second CRC value for the sequence number.

4. A method as recited in claim 3 wherein the sequence number produces a 30-bit CRC value.

5. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein combining the first CRC value and the second CRC value further includes performing an exclusive OR between the first CRC value and the second CRC value thereby producing the third CRC value.

6.   A method as recited in claim 1 wherein combining the third CRC value with the payload segment results in a 77-bit data segment.